

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJ: IMPERIAL COMMISSION TARGETS ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY

SUMMARY: GOI IS AGAIN PUSHING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. IT
REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT ACTUAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL RESULT. END
SUMMARY.

1. ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL COMMISSION HELD ON MAY 20
AT SAADABAD PALACE HEARD SPEECHES FROM GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND
REVIEWED REPORTS OF ITS VARIOUS INSPECTORATE COMMITTEES.
NOSRATOLLAH MOINIAN, CHIEF OF THE SHAH'S SPECIAL BUREAU AND
COORDINATOR OF THE IMPERIAL COMMISSION, WARNED THAT LACK OF
RESPONSIBILITY AND COORDINATION, WHICH TEND TO DELAY NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. REVIEWING
COMMISSION INSPECTORATE REPORTS FOR THE PAST YEAR, MOINIAN SAID
INVESTIGATIONS INDICATED THAT OFFICIALS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR
SHORTCOMINGS IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS. THE IMPERIAL COMMISSION
INSPECTED ALMOST 15,000 PROJECTS AND MOINIAN CITED TWO AREAS OF
SERIOUS MISMANAGEMENT. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MANAGEMENT
WEAKNESS IN ELECTRICITY PROJECTS CAUSED HEAVY DAMAGE TO
THE NATIONAL ECONOMY DURING THE PAST YEAR, SECONDLY, A
NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION WERE NOT PROPERLY PLANNED
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OR SUPERVISED.

2. SHAH'S MESSAGE TO COMMISSION MEMBERS, READ BY COURT
MINISTER HOVEYDA, STRESSED VITAL IMPORTANCE OF FULL
MOBILIZATION OF MANPOWER AND NECESSITY TO INCREASE
WORKERS KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EFFICIENCY PRIME MINISTER
AMOUZEGAR REFERRED TO ADMINISTRATIVE BOTTLENECKS WHICH ARE

DELAYING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND CAUSING PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION. HE CALLED FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION TO CUT EXCESS RED TAPE.

3. IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF RELATED ACTIONS THE PRIME MINISTER IN A MAY 17 PRESS CONFERENCE CRITICIZED THE "INAPPROPRIATE APPROACH OF SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS" AND ADMITTED THAT A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION IS BEING CAUSED BY THESE OFFICIALS. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THOSE WORKERS WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR SERVICE BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "THE ATTITUDE OF 700,000 GOVERNMENT WORKERS CANNOT BE CHANGED OVERNIGHT". FYI: IN ORDER TO GARNER PUBLIC APPROVAL A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED GOVERNMENT WIDE AUSTERITY PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY WITH SUCH MEASURES AS REDUCTION OF 100 GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ABROAD AND THE REQUIREMENT THAT ALL GOI OFFICIALS MUST USE LOCALLY MANUFACTURED CARS.

4. ON MAY 29, FOLLOWING CABINET DISCUSSION, AMOUZEGAR ANNOUNCED THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH MINISTRY TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FROM PUBLIC. COMMITTEES WILL CONSIST OF FIVE TO SEVEN MEMBERS, HALF OF WHOM WILL BE NOMINATED BY RASTAKHIZ PARTY (PUBLIC MEMBERS) AND HALF FROM THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRY. ON MAY 30, AMOUZEGAR, CONTINUING HIS CAMPAIGN, ADDRESSED A MEETING OF ALL GOVERNMENT WORKERS, DIRECTOR GENERAL AND ABOVE, AND CALLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR A "NATION WIDE MORAL MOBILIZATION TO ELIMINATE IRRESPONSIBILITY AND INABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS TO TRY AND REMOVE PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION AS FAR AS POSSIBLE".

5. COMMENT: LATEST GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN FOR GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY HAS PINPOINTED A MAJOR CAUSE OF PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION--LACK OF ACCESS BY THE PUBLIC TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE LATTER'S INABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS. MEDIA COMMENTS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY SUPPORTIVE OF "ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM", ONE DAILY NOTING EDITORIALY THAT THE PRESENT INITIATIVES ARE THE FIRST CONCRETE STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SO CALLED ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION (PRINCIPLE NUMBER 12 OF THE SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION) SINCE IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN 1965. A CAUTIONARY NOTE MAY BE IN ORDER, HOWEVER, SINCE A NUMBER OF EARLIER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER HAVE BEEN STARTED WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS ONLY TO WITHER ON THE VINE. ADMINISTRATIVE "REFORM" IS A PARTICULARLY INTRACTABLE PROBLEM SINCE IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE CONCEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AN ALIEN TRADITION, IS NOT WELL DEVELOPED WITHIN THE GOI BUREAUCRACY. GOVERNMENT CREDIBILITY IS AGAIN BEING TESTED AND THIS LATEST INITIATIVE COULD BOOMERANG

AND BECOME COUNTERPRODUCTIVE-- ONCE MORE RAISING
EXPECTATIONS WHICH REMAIN UNFULFILLED.
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